

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01122 101027Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 PA-01 INR-05 PM-03 EUR-08
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P 100714Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7595

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 1122

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LIMDIS

AF FOR DEPUTY ASST SECY OF STATE HARROP

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, ET, US
SUBJ: NEW AMBASSADOR - SITREP

REF: ADDIS ABABA 988

1. BERHANE DERESSE TOLD ME AFTERNOON MARCH 9, FOLLOWING DELIVERY OF MESSAGE ON SOMALIA'S INTENTION TO WITHDRAW, THAT HE HOPES TO HAVE ANSWER CONCERNING NEW AMBASSADOR NEXT WEEK. AS YOU KNOW, FELLEKE RETURNED YESTERDAY FROM BERLIN AND, ACCORDING TO HIS ARRIVAL PRESS CONFERENCE, MOSCOW. SUBJECT OF AGREEMENT CAME UP IN CONTEXT OF BERHANE'S LAMENTING FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIFFICULTIES IN COORDINATING ALL ASPECTS OF EPMG FOREIGN POLICY, FOR EXAMPLE DECISIONS ON WHAT MINISTRY OR OFFICE SHOULD SIGN AID PROJECT AGREEMENTS.

2. BERHANE POINTED OUT SPECIFICALLY THAT AFTER TWO MONTHS, FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS STILL NOT RECEIVED GO-AHEAD FROM DIRG ON AGREEMENT OF MEXICAN AMBASSADOR ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO POLICY IMPLICATIONS. SIMILARLY, SEVERAL WESTERN AMBASSADORS

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(FRENCH, ITALIAN, BRITISH) HAVE COMMENTED THAT THEIR AGREEMENTS TOOK FROM SIX WEEKS TO TWO MONTHS. ITEM IN PERISCOPE SECTION OF MARCH 6 ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK HAS NOT BEEN BROUGHT UP BY EPMG OR COMMENTED UPON IN PRESS. HOWEVER, THAT ISSUE HAS NOT YET ARRIVED IN ADDIS, AND CONCEIVABLY GOVT IS NOT AWARE OF ITEM FROM ITS OWN DIPLOMATIC OR FOREIGN SOURCES.

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